

ILL. LICENSE PLATES

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS IN GENERAL

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Illinois

License Plates

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Fears Lincoln Picture on License Will Peril Illinois Cars in South

Gov. Stratton has signed a bill providing that the Illinois license plates next year and the years thereafter may bear a silhouette of Abraham Lincoln's head and the words "Land of Lincoln" at the bottom.

Having spent the last five winters touring Southern states I honestly believe that any car from Illinois bearing such a license plate will either be wrecked or badly damaged.

Lincoln is responsible for having freed the slaves, and for having caused the "Civil War," from which the South has never recovered. A license plate, or anything else in fact, bearing his name is an insult, and the "Land of Dixie" won't stand for it.

In the Southern states Abraham Lincoln is the most hated man that ever lived.

In my opinion, every Illinois car owner whose automobile is damaged or wrecked in Southern states because of this "Land of Lincoln" license plate will have a legitimate claim for damages and compensation against the state of Illinois.

A. B.

Chicago.

CARS SAFE

Dixie O.K.s 'Lincoln' On Licenses

Motorists of Illinois, relax!

From all over the Deep South assurances rolled in Wednesday that your cars will be safe in Dixie next year, even though they bear the name of Abraham Lincoln on the licenses.

* * *

ANDREW Bogstad of Chicago wrote a letter to the Daily News, noting that Gov. Stratton had signed a bill authorizing the use of Illinois license plates to memorialize Lincoln.

The law permits the use of Honest Abe's silhouette and the slogan "Land of Lincoln" on the plates.

Bogstad's letter, published Tuesday, warned: "I honestly believe that any car bearing such a license plate (in the South) will either be wrecked or badly damaged."

The Secretary of State's office in Springfield said the silhouette will not be used, because it would add \$250,000 to the cost of plates. But the slogan will be there, white letters on a kelly green background.

* * *

THE UNITED Press questioned people in major cities throughout the South. They scoffed at Bogstad's fears.

After all, they noted, they see Lincoln's profile and picture every day on the pennies and \$5 bills Yankee tourists spend south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Dixie Hoots at Idea of War On Lincoln-Faced Auto Tags

Wilmington Daily 22 July 1953
ATLANTA, July 21 (U.P.).—Southerners said today it will be perfectly safe for Illinois motorists to travel through Dixie with Abraham Lincoln's likeness on their license tags. Southerners have grown to love that picture—partly because it's on Yankee spending money.

The tourist conscious South hooted down the fears of a Chicagoan who wrote his newspaper that he feared cars with the newly authorized Lincoln tags would be wrecked if they appeared in the South.

"Having spent the last five winters touring southern states, I honestly believe that any car from Illinois bearing such a license plate will either be wrecked or badly damaged," wrote Andrew Bogstad, 64, to the Chicago Daily News.

Nonsense, the South chorused in effect. This section has had about 90 years to get over the War Between The States and Southerners see the emancipator every day on pennies and \$5 bills.

"The war (Civil) is over and nobody is going to get shot at down here," said Mayor George Dempster of Knoxville, Tenn. "Those who are still fighting the war are those whose ancestors were conspicuous by their absence during the fighting."

Down at Mobile, Ala., where Admiral Farragut defeated the Confederates in the Battle of Mobile Bay, they recalled that the world premiere of a choral setting of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was held there last spring. It was composed by J. Clarendon McClure, a Mobile musician. The reception was enthusiastic.

In his letter, Boogstad said Mr. Lincoln was responsible for freeing

Land of Lincoln

THE South venerates Abraham Lincoln, and Illinois tourists with his name on their license plates will suffer neither danger nor embarrassment. That was established by the instantaneous reaction, south of the Mason-Dixon line, to a "warning" sounded by the writer of a Letter to the Editor of the Daily News.

Southern editors and other spokesmen, treating the incident with more seriousness than it deserved, pointed out that the South well understood what a true friend it had in the Emancipator, and how much it suffered by his untimely death.

The clinching proof was that no Southerner was ever known to toss away a \$5 bill, or even a Lincoln penny, in protest over the portrait.

By decision of State Secretary Carpenter, the 1954 Illinois auto plates will not have the Lincoln silhouette, but only the slogan, "Land of Lincoln." That will be \$250,000 cheaper.

We hadn't really cared very much for the business of making billboards of license plates, although we considered Illinois' slogan better than most because, at least, it wasn't trying to sell anything. But since the returns already total up to some most gratifying evidences of friendship, we must conclude that the idea has paid off handsomely.

Lincoln and the South

*Reprinted from the Chattanooga
News-Free Press*

THE Chicago and Florida resident who has sounded warning (in a letter to the Chicago Daily News) that the picture of Abraham Lincoln on Illinois auto license plates will cause trouble for Illinois autoists who travel in the South has done the South a grave injustice.

The South has long recognized Abraham Lincoln as one of the great Americans. His memory may not be as greatly revered in the South as in the North, but it is honored by Southerners.

At the time of Lincoln's death from the bullet fired by John Wilkes Booth, Confederate soldiers were among his most sincere mourners. It was generally said throughout the South that the South had lost its best friend in the North.

The South fought valiantly against Lincoln's armies, but the South recognized Lincoln's sincerity—and his goodness of heart.

Mr. Bogstad [the writer of the letter] thinks a license plate "or anything else bearing his name" would be an insult to the South.

For generations, however, pictures of Lincoln and praise for his character, his humanitarianism and his fortitude have appeared in Southern school books, and the South has not been "insulted."

Even granting that some Southerners have hated Lincoln, since war always generates hate, Mr. Bogstad's statement that in the South Lincoln is "the most hated man that ever lived" shows that he is poorly qualified to give advice on this subject. Has Mr. Bogstad ever heard of Sherman? Or of Ben Butler, who was known in the South as "the beast"?

The News-Free Press thinks it quite appropriate for the State of Illinois to honor Lincoln and Illinois by putting Lincoln's silhouette on its license plates. We do not think Illinois citizens will have any trouble over such license plates in this part of the South—or in any other.

Chicago Daily News
7-22-53

Dixie Or Not, Illinois to Leave Lincoln Picture Off Car Tags

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., July 22 (U.P.)—Southern hospitality or not, Illinois decided today to leave a picture of Abraham Lincoln off its 1954 license plates.

Charles F. Carpentier, Illinois secretary of state, said there will be on silhouette of Lincoln on the plates, but instead the printed legend "Land of Lincoln." It was a matter of economy rather than the feelings of southerners, Carpentier said.

He said it would cost \$250,000 extra to put on the picture of Honest Abe, but the legend won't cost anything.

So southern resident won't be put to a test.

A Chicago motorist, Andrew Bogstad, had feared a picture of Lincoln on the plates would inflame Dixie.

Bogstad, in a letter to the Chicago Daily News, envisioned a fearful carnage of smashed plates if Illinois drivers ventured below the Mason-Dixon Line with such plates.

Southerners, Bogstad said, dislike the Civil War president so much they would not be above deliberately wrecking Illinois cars.

Nonsense, southern leaders quickly retorted. They said they love the

picture of Lincoln on such welcome items as Yankee tourist pennies and \$5 bills.

Besides, they said, Kentucky-born Lincoln was a southerner, anyway.

4,400 PATIENTS LISTED IN INSTITUTE'S 16 YEARS

In the 16 years since the Alfred I. duPont Institute was opened some 4,400 patients have been examined, 1,300 of whom have been patients in the hospital devoted to improving the health of crippled children.

This was disclosed yesterday by Dr. A. R. Shands, Jr., director of the institute in a talk to the Kiwanis Club luncheon in the Hotel DuPont. In his review of progress in the state's services to crippled children, the doctor emphasized the clinical-research program conducted by the Nemours Foundation.

Dr. Shands also recalled that since the institute was started in 1937 the state's vocational rehabilitation service has begun, clinics have opened, and the Society for Crippled Children and Adults has been organized.

'LAND OF LINCOLN'



The first "Land of Lincoln" license plates will be issued to Illinois motorists in 1954. Secretary of State Charles F. Carpenter has announced that the plates will have a Kelly green background and white numerals. They will be made of 100th of an inch thick steel.

The contract for the manufacture of the approximately three million plates required was awarded to Hemp & Co., of Macon, for \$709,390. The company has held all the license contracts since the state returned to the use of steel plates after World war II.

Carpentier also said that he would seek to have imprinted without extra cost "F" and "R" designations on front and rear plates of a set. He said he suspected that single sets were being split for use on two cars and that the added imprint would discourage the practice.

The 1953 legislature authorized

the secretary to put on the Lincoln slogan. He said he declined to use the additionally authorized silhouette of Lincoln because it would mean additional cost.

*Spencer, Illinois
July 23, 1953*

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